

Pioneer Museum, Flagstaff

Get Your Kicks on Route 66

From 1926 to 1968, Flagstaff was a major stop on America's legendary national highway, Route 66, also known as the Main Street of America. John Steinbeck called it "the mother road, the road of flight," because it was the road most used by migrants escaping the Dust Bowl. Original artifacts from the early days of Route 66 are on display in this exhibit, as well as auto products and accessories that helped keep travelers motoring along.

Poor Farm and Iron Lung Room

The history of the Coconino County Hospital for the Indigent is described in this exhibit. Healthier patients were required to work on the poor farm surrounding the hospital. Farm tools and other artifacts found around the grounds are displayed in this exhibit, as well as an iron lung used for polio victims and others with serious lung conditions.

Nurse's Room

This room is preserved from the days when the county nurse was the only full time medical staff residing at the hospital. The hospital was built some distance from town and was not easy to get to, especially in winter. The exhibit includes the original night stand, bed, and limited furnishings provided by the county.

The Bear at the Top of the Stairs

For more than thirty years, a ferocious stuffed black bear has been standing guard at the top of the museum staircase. It is said to be the protecting spirit of the patients' quarters.

Ranching and Logging Exhibit

This display features artifacts from two of Arizona's major industries, logging and ranching. Historic saddles, brands and branding tools, saws, and a tree stump carved by Flagstaff pioneer George Hochdeffer provide insights into pastimes and lifestyles of earlier times.



Arizona Rough Riders

When the United States declared war on Spain in 1898, the call went out for volunteer troops. Several young men from Flagstaff enlisted in what would become known as Teddy Roosevelt's famous Rough Riders. The exhibit features Spanish-American War era weapons, mess kits and other military accessories. Pictures displayed include some of Josephine, the Rough Riders' young mountain lion mascot.

